

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus for reproducing already stored moving image data while storing moving image data currently input, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a) moving image data storing means for storing input moving image data;

b) scene feature information extracting means for extracting scene feature information of each of a plurality of scenes constituting the moving image data stored in said moving image data storing means;

c) digest forming means for forming digest data for reproducing a digest of the moving image data, in accordance with the scene feature information extracted by said scene feature information extracting means; and

d) reproducing means for reproducing a digest of the moving image data stored in said moving image data storing means in accordance with the digest data formed by said digest data forming means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reproducing means reproduces, in a normal reproduction mode, current moving image data stored in said moving image data storing means, after reproduction of the digest is completed.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

reproduction of the digest is performed in response to an external instruction.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
5 said digest forming means forms digest data in
accordance with the scene feature information during a
period from a digest reproduction start position to a
digest reproduction designation position, and forms
digest data at a predetermined interval during a period
10 from the digest reproduction designation position to a
digest reproduction end position.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said digest forming means modifies the digest data
15 during a period from a digest reproduction designation
position to a digest reproduction end position
represented by the external instruction, each time said
scene feature information extracting means extracts the
scene feature information.

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6. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said digest forming means forms digest data always at a
predetermined interval during a period from a digest
reproduction start position to a digest reproduction
25 end position represented by the external instruction.

7. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

said digest forming means forms digest data including a scene having a predetermined length starting from a digest reproduction start position represented by the external instruction.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said digest forming means forms digest data in accordance with a length of a digest represented by the external instruction.

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9. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said digest forming means sets a length of the digest to have a predetermined ratio to a length from a digest reproduction start position to a digest reproduction designation position represented by the external instruction.

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10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scene feature information includes at least one of information representative of a degree of scene change and information representative of a degree of motion of a subject in a scene.

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11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input moving image data contains beforehand the scene feature information.

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5 13. An image processing method of reproducing
already stored moving image data while storing moving
image data currently input, said image processing
method comprising:

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from a digest reproduction start position to a digest reproduction end position represented by the external instruction.

5 19. A method according to claim 15, wherein said digest forming step includes a step of forming digest data including a scene having a predetermined length starting from a digest reproduction start position represented by the external instruction.

10 20. A method according to claim 15, wherein said digest forming step includes a step of forming digest data in accordance with a length of a digest represented by the external instruction.

15 21. A method according to claim 15, wherein said digest forming step includes a step of setting a length of the digest to have a predetermined ratio to a length from a digest reproduction start position to a digest reproduction designation position represented by the external instruction.

20 22. A method according to claim 13, wherein the scene feature information includes at least one of
25 information representative of a degree of scene change and information representative of a degree of motion of a subject in a scene.

23. A method according to claim 13, wherein the input moving image data contains beforehand the scene feature information.

5 24. A method according to claim 13, wherein said reproducing step includes of a step of selectively performing a normal reproduction mode and a digest reproduction mode.

10 25. An image processing program executable by a computer to reproduce already stored moving image data while storing moving image data currently input, said image processing program comprising:

15 a) codes for a storing step of storing input moving image data in moving image data storing means;
 b) codes for a scene feature information extracting step of extracting scene feature information of each of a plurality of scenes constituting the moving image data stored in said moving image data
20 storing means;

 c) codes for a digest forming step of forming digest data for reproducing a digest of the moving image data, in accordance with the scene feature information extracted in the scene feature information
25 extracting step; and

 d) codes for a reproducing step of reproducing a digest of the moving image data stored in said moving

image data storing means in accordance with the digest data formed in the digest data forming step.

26. A computer readable storage medium storing an
5 image processing program for reproducing already stored moving image data while storing moving image data currently input, said image processing program comprising:

10 a) codes for a storing step of storing input moving image data in moving image data storing means;

b) codes for a scene feature information extracting step of extracting scene feature information of each of a plurality of scenes constituting the moving image data stored in said moving image data
15 storing means;

c) codes for a digest forming step of forming digest data for reproducing a digest of the moving image data, in accordance with the scene feature information extracted in the scene feature information
20 extracting step; and

d) codes for a reproducing step of reproducing a digest of the moving image data stored in said moving image data storing means in accordance with the digest data formed in the digest data forming step.